November 22, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Annual event commemorates new beginnings for several Jackson-area adopted children

"... Amid much celebration, Jackson County Circuit Judge Diane Rappleye made [Shannon and Shawn Murray] Avalynn's official parents as part of county's annual Adoption Day. The day is organized annually to encourage adoption and draw attention to the many foster children who might otherwise 'age out' of the system. Rappleye and Circuit Judge Richard LaFlamme presided over several open adoption hearings, usually closed to the public.... [Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman joined Rappleye and LaFlamme] on Friday for the special day, commemorated in counties throughout the state."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Adoption Day celebrated across the state

"... In Macomb County, a luncheon is scheduled at Macomb Intermediate School District offices in Clinton Township to highlight families who have chosen adoption, celebrate their role and bring together community agencies that support adoption. Monique Goetgeluck, adoption caseworker with Macomb County Circuit Court Family Division, said speakers will include Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano, a former member of the Macomb circuit bench, as well as Macomb County Circuit Court Chief Judge John Foster and Judge Kathryn Viviano."

Full story

Also see:

HOM-TV(21)/Okemos: Families Across Michigan will Celebrate National Adoption Day

Full story

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Tuesday Nov. 26 Is Mich. Adoption Day Full story

Michigan Adoption Day 2013 to be held Tuesday, November 26 State's celebration of adoptive families now in 11th year, includes 30 counties Press release

The Detroit News: Political Insider: In the middle of the night... (fourth article)

"State Attorney General Bill Schuette, who never shies away from news cameras and microphones, sent out a press release just after midnight Tuesday announcing his endorsement of Justices Brian Zahra and David Viviano for a Michigan Supreme Court election that's nearly a year away."

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Woman faces charges after gun found in purse at Wayne County courthouse

"A Detroit woman headed into court faces additional charges after Wayne County Sheriff's deputies discovered a loaded pistol in her purse. The woman was entering the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice around 9:30 a.m. with her attorney and mother when deputies spotted the gun, Wayne County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Paula Bridges said in a news release."

Full story

Also see:

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Woman tries to bring loaded gun into Detroit court

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County commission needs to make 'fail jail' solution work

The editorial states "... [Dan] Gilbert has offered to pay \$50 million for the jail site, on Gratiot at I-375, along with the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, the Wayne County jail and the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility at St. Antoine and Macomb. The county would relocate its jail to the Mound Road Correctional Facility; it would also build a new courthouse."

Full story

The Arab American News: Appeals court rules Dearborn Judge is 'biased' in medical marijuana case

"Last week, a Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the disqualification of 19th District Court Judge Mark Somers' decision over a medical marijuana case, concluding that he was biased when declaring the Michigan Medical Marijuana Association (MMMA) unconstitutional.... In courtrooms across the State, judges have been left puzzled over how to handle marijuana cases."

Full story

The Daily News/Greenville: Substantive change in direction' for local courts as Voet is appointed chief judge

"The multiple courts of Ionia and Montcalm counties are about to be consolidated underneath one chief judge. Ionia County's 64A District Court Judge Raymond Voet was recently appointed chief judge of circuit, district and probate courts in Ionia and Montcalm counties. His new appointment will take effect Jan. 1."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Court won't take library's appeal over gun policy

"The Michigan Supreme Court won't upset a lower court ruling that prohibits a Lansing-area library from banning guns. In a 6-1 decision, the court says it won't hear an appeal from the Capital Area District Library in Ingham County. The library banned weapons at its branches, but the state appeals court last year struck down that policy."

Full story

Also see:

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court passes on libraries and guns case

Full story

Midland Daily News: Court won't take library's appeal over gun policy Full story

MLive.com: Libraries can't prohibit bookworms from openly carrying guns on their premises

Full story

MiNBCnews.com: Michigan Supreme Court: Library cannot ban guns

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Court won't take library's appeal over gun policy

Full story

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Capital Area Library Loses Appeal To Ban Firearms Full story

Grand Rapids Legal News: By the Book: Life and times of legendary Judge Keith in spotlight

"Philanthropist A. Alfred Taubman, the real estate magnate universally credited with pioneering the modern shopping mall, wanted to do 'something special' for his longtime friend, Damon J. Keith, the distinguished federal jurist who has devoted a career to 'fighting the good fight' for social and racial justice."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Muskegon County Legal News.

Lansing State Journal: Garcia named Ingham County Probate Court's chief judge

"Ingham County Probate Judge Richard Garcia has been named the probate court's chief judge, officials said. Garcia will serve a two-year term beginning Jan. 1. Probate Judge George Economy will continue to serve as chief judge until the end of the year and will then continue as a judge on the two-judge court." Full story

Macomb County Legal News: PALS members hear from judicial administrator

"Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot was guest speaker at a recent Polish American Legal Society (PALS) general meeting at the Polish Village Cafe in Hamtramck.... Talbot spoke about his work as the special judicial administrator at the 36th District Court. The Michigan Supreme Court took superintendent control over that court at the end of May."

Full story

The Macomb Daily: Michigan Tax Tribunal could gain more power from Macomb County case

"The state Supreme Court this week returned to the State Court of Appeals a dispute over fees and interest on late tax payments for an 11-acre Macomb County parcel, telling the court to decide whether it should give more power to the Michigan Tax Tribunal."

Full story

MLive.com: Sierra Club loses appeal over DTE Energy permits to modify coalfired power plant

"A Michigan Court of Appeals panel upheld a pair of permits granted by the Department of Environmental Quality allowing DTE Energy to modify a Monroe County power plant, rejecting a Sierra Club challenge. The environmental group had alleged in an appeal in Ingham Circuit Court that the department failed to impose certain emissions limits on the coal-fired power plant in granting a pair of permits to modify the plant to improve fuel usages and reduce overall emissions."

Full story

Muskegon County Legal News: Court of Claims legislation developments

"Senate Bill 652, restructuring of the Court of Claims and altering its jurisdiction, was introduced on October 24, passed on November 6 with immediate effect, and signed by the Governor on November 13 as Public Act 164 of 2013.... The day after the bill's signing, pursuant to the new act, the Michigan Supreme Court issued an order appointing four judges of the Court of Appeals to sit as the Court of Claims for terms expiring May 1, 2015."

Full story

The News-Herald/Southgate: SOUTHGATE: City officials sworn into office during special ceremony

"It was a full house Tuesday as family, friends and supporters packed the Southgate council chambers for the biennial inauguration ceremony. The mayor, clerk, treasurer and City Council were sworn in by Justice Brian Zahra of the Michigan Supreme Court."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Veterans honored at ceremony

"The Veterans Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association conducted the 2013 Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 8, at the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium in Pontiac. Among the participants in the ceremony were ... Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren; ... retired Judge Fred Mester [and other veterans.]" *Full story*